SECRETARY OF WAR
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 20 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance on Influenza Vaccination

Effective immediately, the annual influenza vaccine is voluntary for all Active and Reserve Component Service members and Department of War civilian personnel.

The Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness (USW(P&R)) will consolidate all requested exceptions to this policy. All Services and Components should submit requests for exception to the USW(P&R) through the Assistant Secretary of War for Health Affairs (ASW(HA)) within 15 days of the publication of this memorandum.

The ASW(HA) will consider the information submitted by the Component heads in requesting exceptions when updating Department of Defense Instruction 6205.02, "DoD Immunization Program," July 23, 2019, as amended.

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